

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 5, after line 15 and before line 16, please add the following new paragraph:

Figure 7 is a schematic side elevation of a stretchable nonwoven loop material made in accordance with the present invention.

On page 23, line 8, please amend the paragraph beginning with "In accordance with the present invention" as follows:

In accordance with the present invention, the loop type fastener (e.g., fastener 84, 85) is preferably made of a multi-directional stretchable material ~~(designated 90 in Fig. 7)~~ made with a gathered nonwoven face (designated 90 in Fig. 7) and an elastic substrate (designated 92 in Fig. 7) so that the composite is extensible and provides retraction tension over a suitable range of extensions. With particular reference to Figure 3, the first fastening components 82 and 83 are desirably although not necessarily disposed on the inner surface 28 of the training pant 20 in the back waist region 24. The first fastening components 82 and 83 are desirably positioned along the distal edges 68 of the back side panels 134, and abutting or adjacent to the waist end edge 72. In certain embodiments, for example, the first fastening components 82 and 83 can be located within about 2 centimeters, and more particularly within about 1 centimeter, of the distal edges 68, the waist end edges 72, and the leg end edges 70.

On page 28, line 27, please amend the paragraph that begins "Figure 6 schematically shows" as follows:

Figure 6 schematically shows how a nonwoven can be drawn between two nips to neck the material. This drawing process

also orients the fibers in the machine direction. Specifically, the drawing process of Figure 6 orients the nonwoven in the machine direction. This drawing process also orients the nonwoven fibers to be more aligned in the machine direction than in the cross direction. A nonwoven material, illustrated in Figure 6 as roll [[A]] 201, of a certain width is fed into a nip point or a draw control section, as illustrated in Figure 6 as nip [[B]] 203. The draw control point [[B]] 203 is running at a speed of x and controls the speed of the feeding nonwoven web. The nonwoven material is then drawn to a nip point or draw control point [[C]] 205. Draw control point [[C]] 205 is running faster than draw control point [[B]] 203, which orients the nonwoven. The ratio of the speed of nip [[C]] 205 to the speed of nip [[B]] 203 is the draw ratio between the two nips. If the distance between nips [[B]] 203 and [[C]] 205 is relatively small, the drawing process does not substantially narrow, or neck, the web. If the distance between nips [[B]] 203 and [[C]] 205 is relatively large, the drawing process can narrow, or neck, the material in the cross direction to a greater extent. By adding nip points subsequent to nip [[C]] 205, the material can be oriented and/or necked further. By controlling the distance between nips [[B]] 203 and [[C]] 205 and subsequent nips and the draw ratios between the nip points, the degree of orientation of the web in the machine direction and the degree of necking of the web in the cross direction can be controlled. The nonwoven material thus necked can be wound on a base roll and attached to an elongated elastic backing in a separate process, or it can be directly attached at bonder [[I]] 207 to elastic backing material [[H]] 209. The bonding can be accomplished by hot melt adhesive, ultrasonic bonds, thermal bonds, or any means well known in the art of bonding.

Attachment to an elongated elastic backing may also be accomplished by means of elongating an elastic substrate as it is extruded and joining it directly to the necked nonwoven in a heated and/or patterned nip. The laminate can be wound to form a base roll [[D]] 211 to later be unwound into another assembly process (such as making a disposable training pant). Alternatively, this process for producing the multi-directional stretchable loop material can be an integral step in the assembling process for making a disposable training pant.

On page 44, please amend the ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A mechanical fastening system for an article includes a loop component mountable on the article and capable of multi-directional stretch. The ~~said~~ loop component is constructed of a neck-stretched non-woven material and an elastic substrate wherein the non-woven material is attached directly to the elastic substrate. The fastener system also includes a hook component mountable on the article and capable of fastening engagement with the loop component to secure the article in a fastened configuration. When the hook component is juxtaposed and engaged with at least a portion of the loop component, the loop component is stretchable during limited movement of the loop component relative to the hook component.